



F2023-R2 - Opposing CLASS Restructure Plan

WHEREAS: The University of North Texas Frank W. and Sue Mayborn School of Journalism has existed in many ways throughout its history, from being a standalone school to a school within the College of Liberal Arts and Social Sciences (CLASS).

WHEREAS, The Mayborn School of Journalism's success and reputation is built upon its diverse, accomplished faculty and alumni, that has throughout the years built up the reputation of the school to become well-known in academia.

WHEREAS, On September 27, 2023, the North Texas Daily released a special report detailing a proposed restructuring plan from CLASS Executive Dean Albert Bimper.

WHEREAS, The plan proposed a restructuring of CLASS, which, if implemented in its initial form, will demote the Mayborn School of Journalism from a school to a department within CLASS.

WHEREAS, The proposed plan would create a department of Journalism and a separate department of Broadcasting, effectively splitting up the Mayborn School of Journalism.

WHEREAS, The proposed plan raises questions and concerns about the future of the Mayborn School of Journalism, and how it would function within the proposed plan.

WHEREAS, The proposed plan raises questions on how the Converged Broadcast Media major within the Media Arts department would be integrated into the proposed department of Broadcasting.

WHEREAS, it's currently unknown how the proposed plan would affect the Mayborn School of Journalism's accreditation with the Accrediting Council on Education in Journalism and Mass Communications (ACEJMC).

WHEREAS, The Converged Broadcast Media major isn't accredited by the ACEJMC, but all undergraduate concentrations within the Mayborn School of Journalism are accredited.

WHEREAS, According to Dean Andrea Miller and the North Texas Daily, no one within the Mayborn School of Journalism knew about the proposal until Mayborn School of Journalism Associate Dean James Mueller was sent the proposal and added to a "task force" and then showed the proposal to Dean Miller.

WHEREAS, According to Dean Miller and the North Texas Daily, Mayborn School of Journalism faculty provided no input on the proposed plan and were not made aware of the plan until an impromptu faculty meeting held by Dean Miller.

WHEREAS, According to the North Texas Daily, "Executive Dean Albert Bimper introduced himself to faculty at the MSOJ's Sept. 1 faculty meeting and discussed goals but did not address any restructuring proposals at the meeting or in any formal meeting with MSOJ faculty after."

WHEREAS, Executive Dean Bimper initially created the three-person "task force," comprised of Suzanne Enck, Department Chair of Communication Studies and Associate Professor; Jean Schaake, CLASS Associate Dean of Academic Affairs; and James Mueller, Frank W. and Sue School of Journalism Associate Dean and Professor, and added seven more individuals to the task force to assess feedback about proposed changes from departments.

WHEREAS, Executive Dean Bimper detailed that the goal of the proposed plan was to formalize interdisciplinary studies across departments, but didn't go into depth on the definition of "interdisciplinary" or provide any examples of interdisciplinary studies.

WHEREAS, After the special report by the North Texas Daily was released, multiple Mayborn School of Journalism alumni spoke out against the proposal through social media, email and phone calls.

WHEREAS, The 222nd Student Senate finds actions taken by CLASS to be unprofessional, and CLASS not inviting Mayborn faculty or students to provide any input before the initial proposal to be a gross oversight and an insult to Mayborn's accomplished faculty, students, and alumni.

LET IT BE FURTHER RESOLVED THAT, CLASS leadership collaborate with Mayborn School of Journalism faculty and staff to create, if needed, a proposed restructuring plan that honors the wishes of Mayborn and keeps the reputation and integrity of the Mayborn School of Journalism intact.

LET IT BE FURTHER RESOLVED THAT, CLASS leadership work to create a public forum for faculty, staff, and students to be able to voice concerns, reservations, and receive information on the state of the proposed plan.

LET IT BE FURTHER RESOLVED THAT, This legislation be sent to the following:

1. College of Liberal Arts and Social Sciences Executive Dean Albert Bimper
2. Frank W. and Sue Mayborn School of Journalism Dean Andrea Miller
3. Provost and Vice-President of Academic Affairs Michael McPherson

Respectfully Submitted,

Senator Alfred Dozier IV
Frank W. and Sue Mayborn School of Journalism

(In Witness thereof, I hereby certify the Student Senate of the University of North Texas Student Government Association has approved this document and is referred to the office of the President.)



Speaker of the Senate

11/17/2023

Date

Presidential Action:

☐ Vetoed

☒ Approved



President of the Student Government Association

11/17/2023

Date



Senior Vice President for Student Affairs

2.8.2024

Date

